

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

In such a case as to distribute his/her own printing data to a plurality of users, in order to provide an environment in which the utilization form of an image recording apparatus can operationally managed easily and desired distribution processing can be performed with high speed without increasing a load on a network under an environment in which the distribution of his/her own printing data to a plurality of users is possible without bothering the user and, at the same time, his/her own printing data can be distributed to a person requiring it by a necessary amount, and the image recording apparatus is shared by a plurality of users, a host computer obtains information concerning a sheet discharge bin of discrimination names and the like registered in an image recording apparatus by requesting it to the image recording apparatus, displays a mail box sheet discharge designation screen based on the obtained information concerning a sheet discharge bin, has each user to designate a plurality of sheet discharge addresses for each page of printing data and the number of sheet discharge copies via the mail box sheet discharge designation screen, prepares a printing job by including instructions based on operations from users including each designation in one printing job and transmits the printing job to the image recording

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apparatus, and the image recording apparatus prepares page information for a plurality of discrimination names designated by a page unit of printing data included in one printing job received from the host computer and, at the same time, retrieves a sheet discharge port in which a same discrimination name as the plurality of discrimination names to designate each retrieved sheet discharge port, and the discharge of the designated number of sheet discharge copies to each prepared page information.